

## REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the claims pending therein. Claims 1 and 2 are canceled. Claims 3 and 4 are withdrawn in affirmation of the provisional election made on April 21, 2006. This amendment adds new claim 5, which is drawn to the same invention as the elected Group I, which included original claims 1 and 2.

Replacement drawing sheets are included herewith with FIGS. 7-9 being labeled --Prior Art-- as required by the Examiner.

Copies of the foreign prior art listed in the previously filed IDS are enclosed. A supplemental IDS is enclosed herewith to report prior art that was cited in the corresponding Japanese application.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Marquis (US 2,551,447). Claim 1 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rollins (US 3,250,862).

Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled in favor of new claim 5, which applicant believes overcomes the rejections contained in the Official Action.

Referring to the speaker shown in FIG. 3 of Marquis (US Patent 2,551,447) cited as anticipating claims 1 and 2 of the present invention, members 10' and 36' regarded as corresponding to the upper frame 5 and bottom frame 8 of the present invention are respectively a basket (or frame) and a stud, which is a disk integral with cylindrical portion 37 supporting a pole piece 38, wherein the stud 36' is riveted to a stepped portion

16' of the basket 18'. Therefore, the basket 10' and stud 36' in Marquis are not constituting the upper and bottom frames assembled into a two-piece structure as recited in claim 5. Further, the structure in which the stepped portion 16' of the basket 18' and the disk 3 6' are superposed and riveted should only result in an increase in the thickness of the speaker and therefore not contributing to any reduction in the thickness of the speaker.

In the case of FIG. 2 of Rollins (US Patent 3,250,862), the structures regarded by the Examiner as corresponding to the upper frame and bottom frame of the present invention are a gasket 8 for mounting outer periphery 6 of a diaphragm 5 to an outer periphery 2 of a frame (basket) 1, which is also different from the upper and bottom frames of the present invention forming the two-piece frame structure. The frame 1 of Rollins is formed to have an integral bottom with a damper 15 supported at its inner periphery. The inner peripheral end of the diaphragm 5 is fixed to the bottom of the frame 1 at a cylindrical outer peripheral end 16 of the damper which extends in the thickness direction of the speaker. The frame structure of Rollins is also does not contribute to reducing the thickness of speaker. In that sense, the magnetic circuit is shown to have a thickness exceeding the thickness of the frame, and Rollins appears not to be designed to reduce the speaker thickness.


Remarkable features of the speaker according to the present invention reside in the two-piece structure of the frame comprising the dish-shaped upper and bottom frames 5 and 8. Specific features include the arrangement of the bottom frame 8 in which the circular center hole 8a and cylindrical part 8b extend from peripheral edge of the hole 8a

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inward the frame, i.e., towards the interior of the diaphragm are provided. The cylinder part 8b holds therein the columnar supporting member 7 or 7A which supports the magnetic circuit 2 with the magnetic gap disposed concentrically with the frame and diaphragm within the interior space of the cone-shaped diaphragm 3, whereby the sound radiating side of the diaphragm is prevented from being closed by the supporting member for the magnetic circuit. The thickness of speaker is not increased by the supporting structure of the magnetic circuit such that the assembly of the speaker is significantly improved, and a firm and steady magnetic-circuit supporting structure is attained.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. Therefore, applicants respectfully request a notice of allowance for the pending claim.

Respectfully submitted,

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